

their first experience of the big, wide world. I was therefore surprised, upon discovering the location of one of the newly-fledged youngsters, which was identified by its yellow throat, to witness the following scene. The female, which was perched close to the juvenile, was calling vigorously and the juvenile was begging for food. The male landed close by and there was some wing fluttering and display, and much calling from the adults before the female flew off. The adult male then proceeded to peck vigorously at the body of the juvenile and continued violently until the juvenile, whilst still clinging to the branch, dropped upside down into a hanging position, and froze as if dead. I was sure the bird was actually dead, but the attacks on the apparent corpse slowed down and eventually stopped, and then the male flew off. This happened very quickly and I had no time to react, and was also unsure whether to interfere. I then waited to watch the behaviour of the female and to see if the juvenile was dead or unconscious. After a few minutes, the juvenile revived and it seemed that it had been feigning death, as the blows had all been to the body which I had thought unlikely to cause unconsciousness.

The juvenile was obviously hesitant to start calling again after this treatment but slowly gained confidence and began to resume begging for food. The female appeared and fed the juvenile, which appeared completely unharmed. The male also soon returned to the juvenile, which was at first very nervous, but quickly resumed its normal begging behaviour. Although I did not see the male feeding the juvenile, no more aggressive behaviour was noted.

The only explanation for such behaviour was that the female was calling vigorously, on the onset of fledging, presumably to inform the male that a new phase of parental care had now started and that not only would it need to bring food to the nest, but that the fledglings would need constant locating, being warned of dangers, feeding and all the other activities involved with rearing the juveniles to complete independence. It is not preposterous to assume that the male may have got the calls from the female instigating the next phase of parental behaviour, confused it with that of courtship, and this therefore triggered an aggressive territorial display from the male towards a rival.

## 10. RANGE EXTENSION OF JUNGLE MYNA *ACRIDOTHERES FUSCUS FUMIDUS*<sup>1</sup>

SUJAN CHATTERJEE<sup>2</sup>, SUMIT K. SEN<sup>3</sup> AND DIPANKAR GHOSE<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Accepted October 28, 2004

<sup>2</sup>DB 75, Salt Lake City, Kolkata 700 064, West Bengal, India. Email: sujan75@vsnl.net

<sup>3</sup>508, Jodhpur Park, Kolkata 700 068, West Bengal, India. Email: sumitsen@vsnl.com

<sup>4</sup>WWF-India Sikkim Prog. Office, Deorali, Near Forest Secretariat, Gangtok, Sikkim 737 102, India.

Initially aiming to generate a check-list of the birds of Kolkata, we have been studying the avifauna of Kolkata since 1990; since early 2000, we also photographed the birds. On August 3, 2001, at 1100 hrs, a Jungle Myna *Acridotheres fuscus* was sighted at Eden Gardens in the heart of the city of Kolkata; one of our members photographed it. Not much attention was paid to this sighting, as the Jungle Myna is a fairly common bird in Kolkata. A few months later, while sorting the photographs, we chanced upon this particular photograph; the bird looked like a Jungle Myna, but a closer look revealed some differences

in coloration of the bird. The bird had an almost black head and a very dark slaty grey on the back. It had an orange eye-ring similar to the nominate species *Acridotheres fuscus*, but what was most striking was that it had a dark slaty grey vent instead of pale cream colour vent. After consulting the field guides (Ali and Ripley 1987; Grimmett *et al.* 1998; Kazmierczak and van Perlo 2000 and Robson 2000), it was identified as the eastern race of Jungle Myna *Acridotheres fuscus fumidus*. The bird appears to exist very far from its range, which is Nagaland, eastern Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

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